

Mallinckrodt

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November 22, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE 312-886-0747 AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Thomas J. Martin, Jr. Associate Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region V Office of Regional Counsel 77 West Jackson Blvd. (C-14J) Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re:

Mallinckrodt Inc.

Response to Sauget Area 2 Site - Groundwater Operable Unit

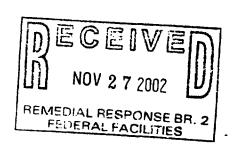
Unilateral Administrative Order

Dear Mr. Martin:

Mallinckrodt Inc. ("Mallinckrodt") is in receipt of the Unilateral Administrative Order ("UAO") issued by U.S. EPA Region 5 with respect to the Sauget Area 2 Site Groundwater Operable Unit ("OU"). This OU addresses groundwater contamination releasing to the Mississippi River adjacent to Site R, and the resulting impact area in the Mississippi River. The UAO states that this impact area is confined to an area of approximately 2000 feet coinciding with the northern and southern boundaries of Site R.

Based on information we have reviewed to date, it appears that the only connection between Mallinckrodt and the Sauget disposal site issues being addressed in this UAO is the presence of one drum with a "Mallinckrodt" label found in the southern section of Site Q. Since Mallinckrodt never used this site for any disposal activities, it is probable that this drum came from Monsanto, who was a customer of Mallinckrodt. To our knowledge, there is no additional information linking Mallinckrodt to the use of Site R, or to any of the other Area 2 disposal sites. In addition, based on our understanding of the barrier wall being constructed and the flow of groundwater in the area, groundwater from the southern section of Site Q, where the Mallinckrodt drum was found, would not be flowing towards the barrier wall. Rather, it is the groundwater flowing from the dogleg of Site Q that is alleged to be contributing to the contamination being addressed by the containment wall.

As a result, Mallinckrodt asserts that it has sufficient cause for not participating in the work required under the UAO for the Groundwater Operable Unit at the Site. If EPA has additional documentation or evidence linking Mallinckrodt to the current actions being



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undertaken at Area 2, we would be interested in receiving it. Mallinckrodt has a long history of working cooperatively with EPA and State agencies at a number of sites throughout the country, and does not hesitate to step forward where there is a clear connection between Mallinckrodt and the site at issue. Here, however, based on the meager and inconclusive evidence allegedly linking Mallinckrodt to the Site, we do not believe there is sufficient cause to justify our participation at this time.

If you have any questions regarding our position, or if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call. Otherwise, please provide us with your determination as to whether Mallinckrodt has demonstrated sufficient cause for not participating in the UAO.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Patricia H. Duft

PHD:sar